

House Engrossed

**FILED**

**JANICE K. BREWER  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Forty-eighth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2008

## **HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2009**

### **A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL**

URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY TO GRANT THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION, ECCLESIASTICAL SUCCESSION AND THE RIGHT TO TRAIN CLERGY OF ALL NATIONALITIES AND TO RESPECT THE PROPERTY RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, the Orthodox Christian Church, in existence for nearly two  
4 thousand years, numbers approximately 300 million members worldwide, with  
5 more than two million members in the United States; and

6 Whereas, since 1453, the continuing presence of the Ecumenical  
7 Patriarchate in Turkey has been a living testament to the religious  
8 coexistence of Christians and Muslims; and

9 Whereas, this religious coexistence is in jeopardy because the  
10 Ecumenical Patriarchate is considered a minority religion by the Turkish  
11 government; and

12 Whereas, the Government of Turkey has limited the candidates available  
13 to hold the office of Ecumenical Patriarch to only Turkish nationals, and  
14 from the millions of Orthodox Christians living in Turkey at the turn of the  
15 twentieth century and due to the continued policies during this period by the  
16 Turkish government, there remain fewer than 3,000 members of the Ecumenical  
17 Patriarch's flock left in Turkey today; and

18 Whereas, the Government of Turkey closed the Theological School on the  
19 island of Halki in 1971 and has refused to allow it to reopen, thus impeding  
20 training for Orthodox Christian clergy; and

21 Whereas, the Turkish government has confiscated nearly 94 per cent of  
22 the Ecumenical Patriarchate's properties and has placed a 42 per cent tax,  
23 retroactive to 1999, on the Baloukli Hospital and Home for the Aged, a  
24 charity hospital run by the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and

25 Whereas, this historic pillar of the Christian faith faces extinction  
26 if the current policies and practices of the Government of Turkey continue.  
27 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of

28 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

29 1. That the Government of Turkey cease its discrimination of the  
30 Ecumenical Patriarchate and work to uphold and safeguard religious and human  
31 rights without compromise.

32 2. That the Government of Turkey grant the Ecumenical Patriarch  
33 appropriate international recognition, ecclesiastic succession and the right  
34 to train clergy of all nationalities and respect the property rights and  
35 human rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

36 3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies  
37 of this Memorial to the Prime Minister of the Government of Turkey, the  
38 United States Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, the Ambassador of the  
39 Republic of Turkey to the United States and each Member of Congress from the  
40 State of Arizona.

PASSED BY THE HOUSE MARCH 18, 2008.

PASSED BY THE SENATE MAY 22, 2008.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY 27, 2008.